March 31, 1964

Mr. Dave Stickle
WMAR TV
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Dave,

Thanks for the warmth and human feeling you and Jack Surick put into the Easter feature on our eggs, for the nice plug for the CAP, and above all for getting them to the sick kids. I hope the kids in Baltimore get as much pleasure from these eggs as the Washington children do. We have had personal contact with Children's Hospital in Washington, so we know the reaction there.

Easter came a little early this year, and our girls worked a little overtime, so I have three more such eggs, if you know anywhere they can still bring some pleasure. If you do, I can bring them with me Friday when I come over to cook in the chicken-cooking contest at Lexington Market. If you come, as you indicated, bring a pot and I'd like to give you my dish. Unless I louse it up in competition, I think you'll enjoy it, and it will save your wife that much work.

I really appreciate your offer of the loan of a 16 mm camera. I want to take behavioral pictures of our geese, especially our wild ones. The way it is healing, I'll be able to show you just what a male Canadian Honke r will do to protect his mate's nest. Both my legs have large bruises, inflicted Saturday and still a sickly green with tinges of purple. They are wonderful creatures. I am writing a book about them, tentatively entitled "Geese Are The Nicest People". I have some 8mm film, I hope including the attack on me, and a few stills. But it isn't, as I understand it, possible to show the 8 mm on TV. I want to not only film a story, but I also think there are very attractive TV commercial possibilities in it. For example, almost all,of them come when I call them and eat from the hand. This includes the wild geese. They are especially fond of bread.

The ambitious project I have in mind is to film the entire life cycle of the wild geese, except for the mating-establishing and protecting the nest, setting on the eggs, hatching the young and then the beautiful story of how the parents teach them everything, including to come and eat from my hand, to overcome their instinctive fear. They will, in fact, shepherd the young until the breeding season of 1965, almost a year from now. The gander we call Mr. Orchard Honker didn't turn his 1963 progeny loose until about a month ago, although for at least six months the yound were as large as the parents. It is a magnificinet thing to see, and the only question in my mind had to do with my ability to capture it on film.

We are both also looking forward to meeting you